

**Remarks/Arguments:**

Claims 1-17, 20-23 and 25-27 are pending in the above-identified application. Claim 18-19 and 24 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants acknowledge, with thanks, the courtesy of the Examiner for granting a telephone interview. During the interview, the Examiner indicated that the features of the present claims may be in condition for allowance, but required further consideration. Accordingly, this response is being filed so that the claims can receive further consideration.

Claims 1-10, 12, 14, 16-17, 20-23 and 25-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being unpatentable over Okita et al. With regard to claim 1, Okita et al. does not disclose or suggest,

... a reproducing unit that extracts **recorded signals from a recording medium** in which the signals have same contents but are **compressed in a plurality of different bit rates** ...

Applicants' exemplary embodiment compresses signals into a plurality of bit rates (i.e. MPEG2 and MPEG4). The signals that have been compressed in the plurality of bit rates are recorded onto a recording medium 131 by recording section 120. The recorded signals that have been compressed in the plurality of bit rates are then extracted from the recording medium 131 by reproducing section 121. (Fig. 1). Thus, Applicants' exemplary embodiment includes "... a reproducing unit that extracts **recorded signals from a recording medium** in which the signals have same contents but are **compressed in a plurality of different bit rates** ..."

Okita et al. records a signal at one bit rate (MPEG2) onto a DVD drive. Alternatively, Okita et al. records the signal at different bit rate (MPEG1) onto a CD drive. (Para. [0036]). That is, Okita et al. either records a signal at one bit rate onto a first recording medium or records a signal at another bit rate onto a second recording medium. Thus, Okita et al. does not "... extract **recorded signals from a recording medium** in which the signals have same contents but are **compressed in a plurality of different bit rates** ..."

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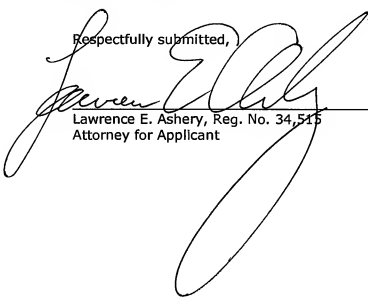
Thus, claim 1 is allowable over the art of record. Claims 2-10, 12 and 14 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 2-10, 12 and 14 are allowable over the art of record.

Claims 16, 20 and 25-26 while not identical to claim 1, include features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Thus, claims 16, 20 and 25-26 are also allowable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Claims 17 and 21-23 depends from allowable claims. Accordingly, claims 17 and 21-23 are allowable over the art of record.

Claims 15 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Okita et al. and Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). Claims 15 and 27 are allowable, however, because they depend from allowable claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this Application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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